

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of brewing malt beverages comprising:

preparing a hot wort, the hot wort having a temperature of at least about 145°F;

adding wood chips to the hot wort;

cooling the hot wort; and

fermenting the cooled wort to produce a fermented malt beverage.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the wood chips are added to the hot wort in a brew kettle.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the wood chips are removed from the wort before the fermentation step.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the wood chips are removed after the fermentation step.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the wood chips are oak.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 5, wherein the oak is American oak.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 5, wherein the oak is French oak.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the wood chips are toasted.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 5, wherein the oak chips are toasted.

Claims 10-29: (Withdrawn)

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): A method of brewing malt beverages comprising the steps of:

preparing a hot wort, the hot wort having a temperature of at least about 145°F;

cooling the hot wort; and

fermenting the cooled wort to produce a fermented malt beverage,

wherein wood chips or a water extract of wood chips is added to one of the step for preparing the hot wort, the step for fermenting the cooled wort, or the fermented malt beverage.